

SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON WOMEN



ANNUAL REPORT 1987-1988

Printed Under The Direction Of The
State Budget And Control Board



South Carolina Commission on Women

August 22, 1988

2221 Devine Street, Suite 408
Columbia, S.C. 29205 (803) 734-9143

Dear Governor Campbell:

The South Carolina Commission on Women sends you best wishes for much success as you lead this State in facing the challenges of the 21st century. Because women will play an increasingly important role in the workplace and community of tomorrow, the Commission has reaffirmed its mission to remove barriers to the full development of women's potential. As we work toward that goal, we appreciate your support and assistance.

I am pleased to present to you this annual report on the activities of the Commission on Women from July 1, 1987 to June 30, 1988. The Commission, with its two new commissioners, found new possibilities and new priorities during this year. We worked to promote women in positions of responsibility and to protect women in homes of violence. We worked to recognize women of achievement and to open possibilities for women in poverty. We worked to explain the problems of women in business and to educate women about employment opportunities.

By encouraging women to develop their full potential, the Commission hopes to assist you in your efforts to improve the quality of life in S.C. We feel that business, industry and education all stand to benefit from the development of South Carolina's greatest natural resource: the strength of its women.

Sincerely,

Barbara D. Ferer

Barbara D. Ferer,
Chair

SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON WOMEN ANNUAL REPORT
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MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION ON WOMEN
As of June 30, 1988

Barbara Ferer, Charleston
Chair

Carolyn Matalene, Columbia
Vice-Chair

Marty Wagner, Greenville
Secretary

Mildred McDuffie, Columbia
Finance Chair

Clelia Hendrix, Greenville
Betty Dominick, Prosperity
Sarah Rogers, Columbia

Staff

Director: Sue Summer, May 1987 to present
Administrative Specialist: Liz Fulmer, Dec. 1984 to present

Office

2221 Devine St. Suite 408

SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON WOMEN STATUTORY AUTHORIZATION

The South Carolina Commission on the Status of Women was created in 1970. Its statute was amended in 1978: to change the name to the South Carolina Commission on Women; and to expand its responsibilities. (Section 1-15-10 et seq., 1976 Code of Laws of South Carolina, as amended.)

The Commission on Women has seven members, all of whom are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. Commissioners are "persons with competence in the areas of public affairs and women's activities". They are appointed for four-year terms, may serve no more than two terms, and receive no salary.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the South Carolina Commission on Women is to work with the Governor, governmental agencies, institutions and other organizations to help the women of South Carolina and their families to eliminate barriers to the development of their full potential.

The duties of the Commission are as follows:

- 1--To study, develop and disseminate information and resources relating to the well-being, rights, responsibilities and status of women;
- 2--To receive and disburse state and federal grants, as well as private donations, for the furtherance of Commission objectives;
- 3--To report periodically to the Governor with recommendations on the concerns of women.

PRIORITIES

In 1987-88, the Commission identified its priorities as follows: 1) implementation of networking plan; 2) study of legislation pertaining to women; 3) development of public relations program; 4) search for grants and foundation support; 5) examination of how public policy impacts on women's private lives.

HISTORY OF THE COMMISSION

The first Commission was appointed by Governor John C. West in 1971. Its first project was a study of female employment practices in large state agencies-- a study which showed women clustered in lower paying jobs. In 1978, the Commission updated its first study of employment practices in State government and learned that little had changed in the intervening years. Even as of June, 1987, only 9.6 percent of those State employees who earn \$50,000 a year or more were women. Of those who earned \$30,000 or over, about 21 percent were women, in spite of the fact that 53 percent of all state employees were women.

The Commission has been more successful in its attempt to call attention to sex bias in South Carolina laws. In 1979, the Commission published a 35-page report, "Current S.C. Laws and Procedures Which Are Sex Biased". The report contained an analysis of existing law and recommendations for change. By 1984, when the Attorney General's Office assisted the Commission in updating this publication, many of these laws had been changed.

While conducting these studies in its first eight years, the Commission's funding from state appropriations varied from \$8,000 to \$14,000. It was, therefore, not possible to hire staff during that time. In 1979, however, the General Assembly increased the funding of the Commission from \$13,940 to \$36,000, and a staff position was funded. Since 1984, the Commission has employed one full time person and one three-quarter time staff person.

In addition to its research activities, the Commission initiated other publications which offered information regarding the status of women. In 1975, the Commission published the first edition of its popular Legal Guide for S.C. Women. In 1979, the Commission decided to update the information contained in the booklet and to publish the information in pamphlet form. With insufficient funds for professional assistance, the Commissioners undertook the task of writing and editing this material. As laws have changed over the years, the pamphlets have been revised and reprinted for widespread distribution.

In 1979 the Commission, after sponsoring a conference on working women, wrote and distributed guidelines on organizing local conferences. The following year the Commission published its first edition of the newsletter, South Carolina Women. This eight-page newsletter has been published quarterly since 1979.

In 1983, the Commission published a South Carolina Women's Organizations File, an alphabetical listing of local and state women's organizations. This list helps agencies and groups in contacting women and providing them with information about conferences, projects and programs of interest to women. And, in its efforts to promote Women's History Week and Women's

History Month, the Commission produced a bibliography and a guide to organizing local observances. These were distributed in 1985 to all S.C. school and public libraries, where they are still available.

In addition to its publications, the Commission has attempted to provide women with opportunities to share their talents with each other--and with the State. In 1981, the Commission started a project to identify qualified and interested women who would like to serve on State boards and commissions. These women are encouraged to complete Talent Bank forms, which are returned to the Commission office, logged, and forwarded to the Governor's Office. Too, in 1984, the Commission initiated a speakers' talent exchange--a listing of women who are available to speak on a variety of topics.

In 1985, the Commission adopted a plan for a South Carolina Women's Network. The purpose, structure and tentative plan for regional meetings were adopted, and 10 regions were designated. Meetings have thus far been held in Region 4, Region 3, Region 8, Region 6, and Region 10. Regions include the counties of:

Region 1-- Greenville, Pickens, Oconee, Anderson, Abbeville, Greenwood, Laurens.

Region 2-- Spartanburg, Cherokee.

Region 3-- York, Union, Chester, Lancaster.

Region 4-- Aiken, Edgefield, Barnwell, Allendale, Bamberg, McCormick, Saluda.

Region 5-- Lexington, Richland, Calhoun, Orangeburg, Kershaw, Newberry, Fairfield.

Region 6-- Sumter, Lee, Clarendon.

Region 7-- Chesterfield, Marlboro, Dillon, Marion, Florence, Williamsburg, Darlington.

Region 8-- Hampton, Colleton, Jasper, Beaufort.

Region 9-- Charleston, Dorchester, Berkeley.

Region 10-- Horry, Georgetown.

Over the years, the Commission has supported legislation which would have a positive impact on the lives of women: Protection from Domestic Abuse Act, amendments to state criminal codes to set penalties for certain acts of domestic violence, equitable distribution of marital property, elective share, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1985, Title IX. Each year the Commission presents a statement of women's concerns to the S.C. Legislative Committee on Aging and to the S.C. Congressional delegation.

Chairpersons of the Commission on Women include: Mary G. Pruitt, Anderson; Dorothy Fillius Green, Myrtle Beach; Beverly Craven, Charleston; Barbara Moxon, Columbia; Clelia Hendrix, Greenville.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES OF 1987-1988

"...to disseminate information"

-- During 1987-88, the Commission researched and published South Carolina Women, a quarterly newsletter. Subscriptions increased from 6,347 to 7,861; distribution increased from 7,200 to 8,700. The 1987-88 newsletter, which won a 1987 S.C. Media Women first place award, focused on:

Women in Education

In 1985-86:

- * A woman with a college degree can expect to earn what a man who dropped out of high school will.
- * In S.C. institutions of higher education, men faculty members earn about 10-12 percent more than their women peers.
- * In S.C. public schools, women are 80 percent of classroom teachers, 25 percent of principals, 7.7 percent of superintendents.
- * Women administrators in S.C. earn about \$8,000 a year less than men administrators do.
- * 20 percent of the men in education are in administration; only 2-1/2 percent of women in education are.
- * 53.5 percent of S.C. women age 25+ were high school graduates, up from 32.1 percent in 1960.
- * 11.4 percent of S.C. women were college graduates, up from 6.4 percent in 1960.
- * 53 percent of all college degrees awarded were awarded to women.

Women in the Changing Family

Between 1960 and 1980 in South Carolina:

- * The divorce rate increased from 1.3 to 5 percent.
- * Women's participation in the labor force increased from 38.3 percent to 52.9 percent.
- * The birth rate dropped from 2,472 children born per 1,000 women to 1,905.
- * The percentage of women age 65+ increased from 10.2 percent to 15.4 percent. This generation of women may be the first in history to spend more years caring for aging parents than for minor children.

In 1985-86:

- * Domestic violence in S.C. rose 10 percent.
- * Spouse abuse totals rose 11 percent.
- * A third of the women in battered women's shelters report having been sexually abused by their spouses.
- * The age range in which someone is most likely to be the victim of a sexual offense in S.C. is age 10-14.

Women and Money

- * The number of women-owned businesses in S.C. dropped 20.2 percent between 1980-83-- a time when the number of non-farm businesses in S.C. grew 12 percent.
- * Receipts for women-owned sole proprietorships dropped 72.8 percent between 1980-83, a period when that figure rose 44.7 percent nationally. In Region IV, of which S.C. is a part, that figure rose 61.8 percent.
- * In 1979, over half-- 52.5 percent-- of the children in female-headed families in S.C. lived below the poverty level.
- * In 1985, S.C. was second only to Washington, D.C. in the percentage of women with children under age 6 who work outside the home.
- * In 1985, 68 percent of S.C. women with children age 6-17 were working outside the home.
- * Nationally, women earn 68 cents to the male dollar; women with no work interruptions earn 69 cents.
- * Nationally, among college graduates, a one-percent increase in the proportion of women in an occupation lower earnings by .42 percent.

Legislative Wrap-Up: The Women's Perspective

- * Two women made history in the 1988 legislative session: Jean Hoefffer Toal became the first woman elected to the S.C. Supreme Court; Carol Connor was elected the first woman circuit court judge in S.C.
- * The marital rape bill, the Commission on Women's top legislative priority, failed to pass despite a Crime Victim Research Center study at the Medical University of South Carolina that showed:
 - the impact on long term mental health from husband rape is as severe as that of stranger rape;
 - only 7 percent of rapes are ever reported;
 - victims of husband rape were more likely to be injured physically than victims of stranger rape: 46 to 38 percent.
- * Governor Carroll Campbell Jr. appointed 67 women to state boards and commissions during his first two years in office. Among these appointees was the first woman ever to serve on the State Development Board, Frances Shipley of Moncks Corner. Nada Williams of Ridgeland was the first woman appointed to the Permanent Advisory Council of the State Development Board.
- * A strong comprehensive health education bill passed after much debate. Two women legislators played a major role in passing this legislation: Sen. Nell Smith and Rep. Harriet Keyserling.
- * Only six states have a lower percentage of women legislators than does S.C. at 7 percent.

-- The Commission published seven legal rights pamphlets: Parental Rights and Responsibilities; Women, Wills and Estates; Women and Credit; Marriage and Divorce; Women and Property Rights; Women and Employment; Women and Health Care. An additional pamphlet was written and published by the Commission this year after it became apparent that many South Carolinians had been misinformed about the comprehensive health education bill. The pamphlet explained the bill, presented reasons why legislators felt it was needed, and how school districts might implement the bill.

Pamphlet distribution has increased markedly in the last two years. This year a total of 15,500 pamphlets were distributed-- twice as many as the 7,600 distributed in 1986-1987, and three times the 3,500 distributed in 1985-86.

--The Commission adopted a comprehensive public relations program to share information on the status of women through:

* Speeches. This year the Commission director gave over 40 speeches across the state: "Scarlett is dead and I don't feel so good myself..." on the status of women; "Armed and Dangerous" on how to become involved in the political process; "\$46,000 and Worth Every Dime" on contributions of homemakers. Other speech topics were sexual harassment, pay equity, and the work of the Commission.

* Conferences. The Commission was represented at over 30 conferences, including:

- M. McDuffie-- Professional Development Seminar for Black Women; Black Family Forum; Black Women's Political Action Forum.
- B. Ferer-- Regional conference of the National Association of Commissions for Women; Womanfest.
- C. Matalene-- Women in Higher Education Administration.

* Media. The work of the Commission was mentioned in approximately 50 news articles during 1987-88. Issues discussed were: the low legal status of S.C. women; hard times for women-owned businesses; child care; marital rape; Probate Code changes to include elective share provision; women in the work force; women's history month; a law that requires a principal to be paid more than any teacher in a school; women in government; the need for comprehensive health education. The Commission was twice interviewed on television and once interviewed on the radio.

-- The Commission conducted research on a variety of topics for over 20 agencies and organizations, including: House of Representatives, Office of the Lt. Governor, Business and Professional Women, National Pay Equity Committee, Charleston Commission on Women, American Association of University Women, University of South Carolina, Joint Legislative Committee on Children, Great American Family Tour.

"...to study the rights and status of women"

--The Commission on Women board members volunteered to research topics of concern to women so that they might serve as consultants during debate on proposed legislation. Issues assigned to board members included: childcare, abuse, homekeeping/parenting, older women, women heads of families, reproductive choice, pay equity, health, divorce, and state retirement system.

--The marital rape bill was named the Commission's number one legislative priority during the 1988 session, but it failed to pass when four members of the House of Representatives objected to the bill in the closing days of the session.

--The Commission studied the impact of legislation on women and last year supported bills that provided for: comprehensive health education; non-prosecution of the innocent spouse for a fraudulent tax return; strengthening enforcement of child support and child custody orders; presumed competency, videotaping testimony and the hearsay exemption for child victims of sexual assault; testing marriage license applicants for certain diseases; granting tax credits for on-site childcare; repealing the marital exemption in cases of criminal sexual assault (marital rape bill); repeal of the law that mandates a principal of a school must earn more than any teacher; increasing the marriage license fee and using the proceeds for domestic violence programs; free counseling for victims of criminal sexual assault; health and safety standards for children's residential facilities; maternity leave for employees of businesses with 100 or more full-time workers.

H. 3230, which would have allowed a spouse to be granted alimony only if that spouse could prove fault on the other spouse's part, was opposed by the Commission.

Legislative intern, Gayla McSwain, monitored bills, attended committee hearings, and wrote letters of support to sponsors. The Commission offered testimony during committee hearings on S. 519, S. 1007, S. 47, H. 2395, and assisted in preparing testimony on S. 1003.

-- The Commission endorsed: Chimera, a self-defense course for women in conjunction with the March/April "Take Back the Night"; Black Women's Political Action Forum; Women in Poverty research; Women's History Month; Family and Medical Leave Act HR. 4300. Because one of only eight women killed in Vietnam was Army nurse Betty Ann Jones of Allendale, the Commission strongly endorsed the Vietnam Women's Memorial Project in its effort to place the statue of an Army nurse near the national Vietnam Memorial.

-- The Commission, in working with other agencies that have common legislative interests:

- * Supported the Joint Legislative Committee on Children in its effort to license residential facilities for children and to presume competency for child victims of sexual assault in court proceedings.

- * Alerted the Joint Legislative Committee on Aging to the problem of "Black Widows": Some women receiving SSI benefits must apply for social security when they become eligible, but some consequently lose health care benefits until age 65.

- * Cooperated with the Institute on Poverty and Deprivation in forming a task force to investigate how public policies impact on women in poverty in S.C.

-- The Commission wrote to legislative committees and informed them about a national effort to remove gender-specific language from statutes. Several states have already mandated that all proposed legislation must be gender neutral, as recommended by the Document Design Center, American Institute for Research. The National Council of Teachers of English also encourages gender-neutral language whenever possible. The Commission felt that if committees were aware of this principle in drafting legislation now, then costly revisions of codes might be avoided at some future time when such language becomes standard.

-- Commission members served as liaison with other agencies, organizations and offices in order to learn how they are working to improve the status of women:

- * B. Ferer-- Charleston Commission on Women, My Sister's House, National Association of Commissions for Women, YWCA of Charleston.

- * C. Matalene-- S.C. Women in Higher Education Administration, Columbia College.

- * C. Hendrix-- Commission on Aging, Greenville Women's Network, United Methodist Church Women.

- * M. McDuffie-- South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, Child Support Advisory Committee, Black Women's Political Action Forum.

- * S. Rogers-- liaison, Legislature and Governor's Office.

- * B. Dominick-- Women's History Month, Governor's Office.

The Commission director acted as liaison to: The Great American Family Tour planning committee, Advocates for Comprehensive Health Education, Citizens Forum on the Constitution, and the Institute on Poverty and Deprivation.

"...to develop resources"

--The Commission on Women sent Talent Bank applications to the Governor's Office so that qualified women might be considered when appointments to state boards and commissions are being made. These applications were also used to assist the Commission in making nominations for state and regional awards. Nominations were made for the Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson Award for Beautification, Earth Team, Common Cause Award.

-- The Commission promoted Women's History Month by providing sponsoring organizations with a curriculum guide and bibliography. Too, the Commission issued press releases to encourage attendance at scheduled observances state-wide.

--The Commission continued its networking activities with a meeting in Region 6. As of June 30, 1988, five of the original 10 networking regions had held meetings.

-- As requested by the Governor's Office, the Commission commented on grant proposals for federal funding of: domestic violence shelters, women in transition programs, training for women in non-traditional jobs, career counseling for women. In an effort to strengthen these proposals, supporting data was included in comments whenever possible.

--The Commission made over 300 referrals to other organizations and agencies so that they might provide assistance to troubled women. Calls on sexual harassment seem to have increased this year. Calls were also received from victims of domestic violence, marital rape, age and sex discrimination, pay inequities. Many women reported problems in the collection of child support; others noted the stark difference between the standard of living enjoyed by former husbands and the financial hardships they faced. Spousal impoverishment seems to be a topic that warrants further study in light of the recent changes in S.C. domestic law. Other calls came from women who were seeking financial assistance for job training or education.

-- The Commission researched grant possibilities and submitted a proposal to Knight-Ridder Foundation. If funded, the Commission will begin a women's history project to collect oral histories of S.C. women who have made significant contributions to their state, communities and families. Histories will be collected by high school students, who may use these women of achievement as role models and who may, as a result of this encouragement, become interested in a communications career. Public school libraries will be given copies of the published oral history books, and the sale of other books should help the project to become self-sustaining.

-- The Commission maintained a resource file and collected information regarding the status of women in South Carolina. Upon request, the Commission made this information available to researchers and students.

-- The Commission initiated an internship program with Columbia College, and director Sue Summer has since supervised five communications and political science interns:

- * Geona Shaw researched pay equity, studied how pay equity has been implemented in other states, examined job and salary information from S.C. and made recommendations for future study on this critical issue.

- * Beth Tyson represented the Commission at Women's Day Conference in Aiken and developed press kits and news releases for networking meetings.

- * Traci Howell researched gender-specific legislation and assisted with the Black Women's Political Action Forum.

- * Connie Harris prepared a report on issues discussed during the Forum and wrote interviews for the newsletter.

- * Wanda Gerald wrote articles for the newsletter, researched information, and represented the Commission with the Women's Consortium.

In a separate internship program, the Commission assigned a summer intern from Israel to report on pregnancy discrimination. These interns have allowed the Commission to increase its commitment to improving the status of women without increasing its personnel budget.

The Commission on Women would like to express its appreciation to the Governor, the Budget and Control Board, the Senate Finance Committee, the House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee, the Division of Information Management Services, and those House and Senate members who supported the Commission's budget request for a computer upgrade for desktop publishing. In an office with limited financial and human resources, this system is particularly welcome. It not only will save time in preparation of publications for our 1-3/4 staff members, but it will also save money in typesetting costs on those publications. For this generous gift of support, we are very grateful.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 1987 - 1988

GENERAL ACCOUNT

Total Adjusted Appropriation State Budget \$68,264

Expenditures:

Two Classified Positions	\$32,195
Employer Contributions	6,959
Stipend/Intern	1,500
Per Diem	3,391
Travel	2,898
Contractual Services	8,716
Supplies	5,393
Fixed Charges	6,750
Equipment	298
Library Line	50

TOTAL Expenditures \$68,150

General Account Closing Balance FY 1988 \$114

OPERATING REVENUE ACCOUNT

1987 Balance Forward \$484

Total Contributions/Publication sales 1,050

Available Balance FY 1988 1,534

Expenditures FY 1988 584

Operating Revenue Account Closing
Balance FY 1988 \$950